Impact of SEZs on environment

314. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken by Government about the impact of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) on environment especially when they are approved in barren/waste land or otherwise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that waste land in many places plays a significant role in maintaining underground water table and ecological balance; and

(c) in what manner Government intend to address this issues, so that, in the race of development of export permanent long term damage to the environment and ecology is not inflicted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. However, the activity for establishing Special Economic Zone requires prior environmental clearance as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. Accordingly, the project authorities are required to undertake Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Study based on which the proposal is considered for grant/rejection of environmental clearance.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Environment Impact Assessment Study identifies the significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed developmental activity and these are addressed through an Environmental Management Plan to mitigate and minimize the adverse impacts and accordingly specific and general conditions are stipulated while according environmental clearance by the Government.

Violation of Coastal Regulations Zones by Goa

315. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether provisions of Coastal Regulation Zones are being constantly violated in the State of Goa;

(b) whether the Central Government or the authorities functioning under the Central Government have called for report/reports from the State Governments in this regard;

(c) the number of violations detected by the State Government in the last five years, the number of structures demolished and their value assessed; and

(d) the details of the structures proposed to be demolished in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for monitoring and enforcing the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan of Goa. This Authority submits proceedings of its meetings and the reports of its findings to the Ministry.

(c) According to the information received from the Government of Goa, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority has reported the total number of violations during the last 5 years as 321 and the number of structures demolished as 28. However, the value of the demolished structures has not been assessed.

(d) According to the information received from the Government of Goa, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority has issued directions for demolition of structures in 23 cases. Further, 246 cases have been referred to the Additional Collector and Deputy Collector concerned for enquiry.

Notification of new tiger reserves

316. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this Ministry has given the go-ahead for six States to notify eight new tiger reserves, adding about 7,500 sq. km. of sanctuary and bringing about 7 per cent of the country's forest areas under Project Tiger; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?